

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 6-9 are added.

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morita (USPN 5,229,905) or Morita (USPN 5,095,602). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither of the Morita references disclose or suggest molding a blank from an opaque plastic component, the blank having a front surface with a recessed volume, and over-molding at least said face of the blank with a layer of a coloured plastic component in a manner to over-span the opening in the face of the blank.

By contrast, USPN 5,229,905 issued to Morita discloses a method of molding a magnetic tape cassette, wherein in a first step a cassette body is molded using a primary resin leaving a window portion open. In a second step, a secondary transparent resin is injected into the window cavity to form the window portion (Column 2, lines 18 to 24). The cassette half body and the window portion are welded together and integrally molded together by heat and injection pressure (Column 2, lines 25 to 29). As seen in Figs. 4, 5, 7 and 11, the secondary resin of the window portion partly overlaps the primary resin of the cassette body. The cassette body and the window portion are of equal thickness.

USPN 5,094,602 issued to Morita also discloses injection molding for forming the halves of a magnetic tape cassette.

First, an opaque primary resin is injected into a cavity leaving a window cavity. Second, a transparent resin is injected into the window cavity. Again, the body and the window are of equal thickness. Therefore in view of the above-mentioned reasons, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

New claim 6, which depends from claim 1, should be allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the additional feature that the layer of the coloured plastic component is over-molded on the entire face of the blank. Neither of the Morita references disclose or suggest a layer of a coloured plastic component that is over-molded on the entire face of a blank. Therefore, claim 6 is allowable.

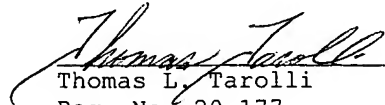
New claim 7, which depends from claim 1, should be allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the additional feature that the recessed volume is void of any material therein. Neither of the Morita references disclose or suggest a recessed volume of a blank that is void of any material therein. Therefore, claim 7 is allowable.

New claim 8, which depends from claim 1, should be allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the additional feature that a layer of the coloured plastic component does not extend into the recessed volume. Neither of the Morita references disclose or suggest a layer of a coloured plastic component that does not extend into a recessed volume of a blank. Therefore, claim 8 is allowable.

New claim 9 recites a method comprising the steps of a) injection molding a blank (1) from an opaque plastic material, during injection molding said blank forming a recessed volume (2) in the blank, said recessed volume (2) extending from an opening in a face of said blank and inwardly of said blank; b) over-molding at least said face of the blank (1) with a layer of a coloured plastic component in a manner to over-span the opening in the face of the blank (1), the layer being sufficiently thin to be translucent, said recessed volume corresponding in shape and position to a translucent area of the layer delineated from an opaque area of the blank; and c) directing light through said recessed volume and said translucent area. None of the prior art discloses or suggests all of the features claimed in claim 9. Therefore, claim 9 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and the application allowed. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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